

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner withdrew claim 23 and rejected claims 1-4. Claim 23 is cancelled herein without prejudice, new claim 24 is added and claims 5-23 remain withdrawn. No new matter is presented. Thus, claims 1-4 and 24 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

ELECTION/RESTRICTION:

At item 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that newly added claim 23 is directed to a non-elected subject matter of the application. As mentioned above, claim 23 is cancelled herein.

Therefore, withdrawal of the election/restriction is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

Claims 1, 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,818,970 (Ishikawa).

Ishikawa calculates substitution data for substituting a portion of a multi-value image data based on extraction of a block having the most frequent value in the image. For example, as shown in FIGS. 3A and 3B, the character/line image extraction unit (103) of Ishikawa extracts the most frequent value in a block as color information of a character/line image and supplies the same to an encoder (see also, col. 6, lines 3-10 and col. 20, lines 10-25). That is, Ishikawa is directed to extracting the high frequency component of an image and performing a spatial frequency conversion on the image.

In contrast, the present invention controls processing of “an arbitrarily designated” portion of an image data. This is unlike the extraction of the most frequent value of the multi-value image data in Ishikawa.

Independent claim 1, by way of example, recites “inputting control information externally-produced and designating a processing for **arbitrarily designated partial image data** of the moving image data inputted through said moving image source input unit” (emphasis added).

Similarly, independent claims 3 and 4 recite, “inputting control information externally-produced and designating a processing for arbitrarily designated partial image data of the inputted moving image data” and “inputting control information externally-produced and

designating a processing for arbitrarily designated partial image data of the inputted moving image data", respectively.

Ishikawa extracts the most frequent value of the multi-value image data, and thus, does not teach or suggest each and every element set forth in each of the independent claims 1, 3 and 4 including, "arbitrarily designated partial image data" (see also, MPEP § 2131).

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa.

Claim 2 recites, "inputting area information externally-produced and defined for each arbitrarily designated predetermined partial image unit." As discussed above with respect to claims 1, 3 and 4, this is unlike Ishikawa that executes the image encoding based on calculation data with respect to frequently occurring values in the multi-value image data.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 24 recites that the present invention designates "an arbitrary portion among portions forming the moving image data" and defines "the arbitrary portion as control information for the moving image data in entirety." This eliminates the need to change values of each portion of the image data.

Ishikawa does not teach or suggest designating "an arbitrary portion among portions forming the moving image data" and defining "the arbitrary portion as control information for the moving image data in entirety", as recited in claim 24.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 24 is patentably distinguishable over Ishikawa.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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